

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6222

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 3006

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR FOR UNDER SECRETARY BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PINS, AR, US

SUBJECT: ARGENTINA - TERRORISM

REF STATE 82197

1. I APPRECIATE YOUR PROMPT AND HELPFUL SUPPORT TO ASSIST MISSION IN ACHIEVING IMPROVED SECURITY FOR ITS PERSONNEL. WE ARE DEVELOPING PLANS FOR REDUCTION OF US PERSONNEL IN BUENOS AIRES AND ARGENTINA, AND WILL SUBMIT DETAILS TO YOU SOONEST. WE MUST TRY TO MAKE REDUCTIONS IN SUCH A WAY THAT WILL NOT GIVE TERRORIST GROUPS IMPRESSION WE ARE ACCEDING TO THE PRESSURE OF THEIR THREATS, WHICH HAVE AS OBJECTIVE TO ELIMINATE OR GREATLY DIMINISH US OFFICIAL PRESENCE IN ARGENTINA.

2. IN BROAD OUTLINE, PLAN IS TO RECOMMEND MOVE TO ANOTHER COUNTRY OF THOSE OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS WHICH ARE REGIONAL IN NATURE. THESE CHANGES WILL BE MADE WITH NO PUBLICITY AND TREATED AS ROUTINE. NEXT PRIORITY WILL BE TO TRANSFER OUT OF ARGENTINA SELECTED INDIVIDUALS, EITHER ELIMINATING THEIR FUNCTIONS OR CONSOLIDATING THEM WITH OTHERS. WE ANTICIPATE THAT TOTAL REDUCTION OF APPROXIMATELY FIFTY POSITIONS WOULD MATERIALLY IMPROVE OUR PERSONNEL SECURITY CAPABILITIES. ADDITIONALLY, EVERY SCHEDULED REPLACEMENT FOR A DEPARTING OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE WILL BE CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZED AND A RECOMMENDATION MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT AS TO WHETHER THE VACATED POSITION

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SHOULD BE FILLED.

3. ON APRIL 25 I WAS CALLED IN BY FONMIN VIGNES WHO, WITHOUT MAKING REFERENCE TO ANY SPECIFIC THREAT, SAID GOA VERY SERIOUS ABOUT PROVIDING SECURITY TO US OFFICIALS HERE, AND AT REQUEST OF HIGHER AUTHORITIES THE APPROPRIATE SECURITY AGENCIES IN ARGENTINA ARE PREPARING PLAN FOR INCREASED PROTECTION. PLAN WILL BE GIVEN TO ME WHEN READY IN A COUPLE OF DAYS, AND WILL BE RELAYED TO DEPARTMENT FOR STUDY. OUR REDUCTION PLANS WILL THEN BE LOOKED AT IN LIGHT OF GOA PROPOSALS, HAVING IN MIND THAT SINCE WE ESTIMATE THAT GOA CAPABILITIES TO OFFER SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED PROTECTION ARE VERY LIMITED.

4. IN REPLY TO PARAGRAPH 7 OF REFTTEL, FOLLOWING ARE FIGURES ON US NATIONALS IN ARGENTINA:

OFFICIALS	178
DEPENDENTS	329
PRIVATE CITIZENS	4000
AVERAGE TOURISTS IN	
COUNTRY PER DAY	200

5. WASHINGTON WELL UNDERSTANDS, A MOVE OF SUCH MAGNITUDE CAUSES SERIOUS MORALE PROBLEMS IN EMBASSY. WORD TRAVELS FAST AND ALREADY THOSE PRESSING FOR TIGHTER SECURITY ARE ATTEMPTING TO SEE THAT THEIR SECTIONS NOT BE CUT. WE WILL CALMLY MAKE OUR RECOMMENDATIONS AND AWAIT YOUR INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON. HILL

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